

October 1975

# MORALE BOOSTER



"SPACE IS A BETTER PLACE"

# MORALE BOOSTER

the official organ of

UNITED FOR OUR EXPANDED SPACE PROGRAMS

VOLUME II NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 1975

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## I. One Down, Two To Go

When U.F.O.E.S.P. was conceived over a year ago, it was but one idea (bumper stickers proclaiming Space Is The Place on thousands of autos across the country) in the mind of one person. Now, the bumper stickers are door stickers and over a score of people have space dreams and schemes weaving through their heads, allied for the effort to mobilize the masses for space. The task, freely chosen, is enormous; our actions over the year past are nearly insignificant compared to those necessary in the year (and year after) to come; nonetheless, compared to the isolation in which each member of the organization existed with respect to space before joining, those same actions represent incalculable advances to mobilize the millions in need of an expanded space program.

Rather than review the first year chronologically or in terms of specific activities, let us once again examine our work from the perspectives of education and propaganda. No matter the size of our organization or the particular projects instituted to further our goals, two basic referents guide and limit our efforts. If we are to be successful in our attempt to change radically the commitment of this nation to space, we must persuade two fundamental groups or classes of the population of the wisdom of our proposals: the space policy makers and the space enthusiasts of the land. Each group requires individual attention and it is through our educational work and propaganda that we seek to achieve the necessary persuasion. The space policy makers comprise a small collection of individuals (no more than 700 people) who wield pivotal, critical power with respect to what is actually done in space and it is to these persons that we direct our propaganda. The space policy makers must be intensely lobbied because their time is given to those who are the most insistent in their demands. This does not mean that the shrillest and loudest voices receive the greatest attention; but it does mean that the space policy makers openly established competition as the basis for directed attention and cannot, thus, be convinced of any position's worth unless their interest is vigorously pursued. The space enthusiasts, on the other hand, comprise a massive collection of individuals (numbering well into the millions) with very diverse interests in space and who exist in relative isolation from one another, quite unlike the space policy makers who are intimately associated with one another. It is reasonable then to direct our educational work towards this group as its individuals, though intrinsically inclined to support space ventures, lack often a coherent and full understanding of the need and rationale for space exploration and exploitation. More importantly, these people lack the deep awareness of their enormous potential. Most space enthusiasts would not believe that there are millions of people similar to one another in their passion for space. Yet these millions exist. The problem is one not amenable to solution by incessant argument or intense harangues and so educational methods must be used.

This first year, in the political sphere, had as its basic and primary concern the formal presentation of our philosophy, evidence, and rationale for space before the nation's space policy makers. The First, Second, and Third Petitions to the People's Representatives establish the essential elements of the full formal presentation of our views; and the Fourth and Fifth Petitions to come will fill in the details. The three petitions generated but seven responses; however, their success can not be measured so simply. A total of over 1100 door stickers and 1700 copies of the three petitions has been lodged in the web of Washington DC. This can not happen without effect. True, few, if any, Congresspeople saw the petitions personally. True, much, if not most, of our literature was tossed in the trash. But it is also true that we received seven responses and if our propaganda could stimulate a few to respond directly, even if by form letter, we should be lead to believe that it could stimulate a few more people to say, "Hhhmmmmmm" before consigning the communications to oblivion. To present the necessary arguments, evidences and possibilities for space for our use and benefit is a methodical task and an occasionally pedantic one. But it is necessary and it is and will be done. We have our effect and we must not be deluded by the lack of immediate confirmation and details of our effect into thinking that we are insignifi-

cant and contribute not at all to the general cause of expansion into space.

Our educational efforts brought more obvious success and the presentation of the organization at the 28th West Coast Science Fantasy Conference is an excellent example of the progress achieved in this area of our operations. Thirty or more people attended the forum conducted by the Board of Governors and seven became members (4 passive, 3 active). Beyond this, we learned of other groups working towards similar goals and we were interviewed by a journalist. The lesson most vital to learn from this event and many of our other educational efforts is the feasibility, even ease, with which we may arrange activities to maximize their possibilities and benefits. We must compound our interests, so to speak, and invest in those developments which possess exponential potential for growth. In other words, the future is a question of leverage.

Let us examine a pair of pivots for times to come. The 34th World Science Fiction Convention, whose Guest of Honor will be Robert Heinlein, will be held in Kansas City, Missouri next Labor Day weekend (September 1-4). We have three attending memberships and plans are well underway to exploit this event for membership increase and public education. Over 2100 people have joined the convention in one capacity or another and seven or so thousand are expected to attend. Given the success of our presentation at Westercon 28 and our advertisement in the Aussiecon Programme Book, it is not unlikely that advances can be made there. At some point we must diversify our selection of groups to proselytize; but these initial efforts to expand the membership must focus on those few groups which obviously and clearly can and do support our goals. For Midamericaon we intend to organize a distribution booth with our materials being everything accomplished to that time. We will sell memberships, doorstickers, petitions, pamphlets (some original, some collections from articles which have appeared in these pages), and anything else we might create by that time. Let us have a poster! Let us have a banner, totem or flag! There is little point to seizure of an opportunity if that seizure is not vigorous.

Midamericon will not represent the only effort to educate the public or increase our numbers but it exemplifies the methods and objectives we pursue. We make our presence continually, selectively, known. Likewise, the congealing thoughts on the ways U.F.O.E.S.P. can make a political impact in the coming, most political year symbolize our approaches and aims to turn this nation around on space. It is a few months too soon to discuss these ideas in detail but we might mention activities such as demonstrating at political rallies (peacefully and quietly), solicitation of the space views of presidential candidates, senatorial candidates and like individuals in an effort to both bring this matter to their minds and to aid our strategies of Congressional lobbying through our acquisition of greater understanding of the philosophies and psychologies of the space policy makers to be. Certainly, other useful public acts can be done along these lines of political activism and they will become apparent with study and time. We must make our presence continually, selectively known, reminding all we can that the Space Age is here to stay. In conclusion, this first year of United For Our Expanded Space Programs has been filled with much construction, accumulation, and tempering of our resources and the second year now unfolding will witness tremendous solidification of these initial advances and growth beyond and upon the consequent foundation. We are the wave of the future and the future is upon us. There is no retreat from the technological developments and processes of the modern world. Even nuclear catastrophe will not hold these things. The fabric of the world, the enormous resources of human society, the unexpected potential of the earth and the cosmos in which it is embedded form an organic and resilient reality far bigger and more potent than the simple madnesses of Man. Space is the Place! Nothing can stop it now!

## II. Stimulus/Response: January 6, 1976

"...Saw Carl Sagan on Today show short while back, promoting space stations and colonization--have you tried him? It was very good to hear about Westercon and the amount

of morale boost it provided..." Thomas Bahr, 1282 Lake Drive Road, Rural Route 3, Sedro-Woolley, WA 93234.//Topics which years ago were rank fantasy are now discussed seriously in all the media. Death rays, space colonies, extraterrestrial life, new miracles of mind and body are presented in all manner of respected media--television particularly. Carl Sagan is a prominent spokesman for astrophysical consciousness and we have our eye on him continually, we are drawing our bead. One of the areas to be mined for resources to build the U.F.O.E.S.P. Space Machine is academia and the general scientific community. Delicacy must be used in our efforts in this regard as intellectuals quite often are sensitive to the charge of possession of naive ideas. We are militants for space but we are not anarchist radicals; subtlety will be needed to bring such individuals to a proper understanding of the difference. We appreciate the enthusiasm for our Westercon success and look forward to repeating it this coming summer.

"I read your ad in the Aussiecon Program Book. I would like to become a passive member. Enclosed is a cheque for \$4.99. Can you send me information about what an active member does? Thank you." R. Laurraine Tutihasi, 18 Candlewood Drive, Pittsford, New York 14534.//Although we have often addressed ourself to the question of active vs. passive membership, it is not invaluable to examine the issue once again. When the organization was first formed, it was thought that people should be provided with two options of commitment to U.F.O.E.S.P., and that these two alternatives should reflect in some way the Board's expectations or hopes for the membership. Since the basic tenet of the Board's activist philosophy is the positive correlation of increased unity of personnel resources of the organization with the increased productivity and efficacy of our methods, and since the major process by which this unity of personnel resources is seen to be achieved is the initiative and participation of the membership in U.F.O.E.S.P.'s projects, the division of membership into active and passive parts seemed appropriate. At this point it should be noted that there is an important metaphorical quality to the terminology and it would be unwise to attempt to understand it too literally. The purpose of the division is to facilitate the member's participation in the organization. The terms are distinct from one another but within each exists a wide range of meanings. For example, an active member might be one who only pays the yearly dues faithfully; on the other hand, it might be an individual who pays the dues and serves on the Board of Governors, proselytizes vigorously, contributes to Morale Booster, while creating artifacts to spread our message and generate funds for future projects. Similarly, a passive member might be one who simply pays the yearly dues, reads the Morale Booster regularly, and posts the doorsticker prominently; on the other hand, this same passive member might pay yearly dues and never read the Morale Booster. The membership is free to do no more than pay yearly dues. More importantly, the membership is free to do as much more than pay dues as they are able. Although the Board might tend to view total commitment to the organization as imprudent and excessive, it is most likely that such dedication and willingness to give to the Space Machine would be accepted and even, if you will, exploited. In any event, the degree to which we achieve our aim of mobilizing the masses for space will be directly proportional to the energy, materials, interest and commitment the membership, as individuals and as a group, give to the great work before us. Space is the place! Let's move out!

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your third petition to the people's representatives and for the bumper sticker. I appreciate your courtesy. With best wishes..." Ella Grasso, Executive Chambers, Hartford, Conn.//As mentioned in other portions of this issue, we must not measure the success of our initiatives solely in quantitative terms, though, in the final analysis, quantitative terms are the only ones which matter. At this stage of our efforts, to obtain any response from the leaders of the nation is a complete success in itself. Although the focus to date has been primarily upon the members of the U.S. Congress, we must not forget that these five hundred and thirty-five individuals do not alone determine space policy. Furthermore, the persons who

exert significant influence over the actualization and formation of space policy do not exist solely in the agencies of the Federal Government. Academicians, industrialists, governors, writers, and many others play some part in the process. To attempt to solicit support from them all at once, even as tokens of categories, would tax our resources to the point of bankruptcy. In a word, our energies would be dissipated over a spectrum of activity too broad for our interests. We begin with Congresspeople because they play the final role in creation of U.S. space efforts. But, we continue with focus expanded to include governors for the states of the Union possess large reserves of initiative, independence and important skills or talents. Without question, we will enlarge the areas of agitation to encompass the halls of academe and to penetrate the factories. At all times, it is vital to monitor and modulate our efforts so that reinforcement of previous campaigns is conducted coherently with the introduction of new offensives. In any event, each contact, no matter the final receiver or intended recipient of our solicitations, imprints an awareness of our existence which persists through time and, if properly reinforced by new offensives or old reserves, this imprint increases in effect with time. Thank you, Governor Grasso, and rest assured that you have not heard our last word.

"Thank you for taking the time to send me your informative letter. I have decided to become an active member of UFOESP. Enclosed is my check for \$15. I am very excited about UFOESP. Space is the place." (emphasis in original). Michele Ann Klein, 2217 Cross Country Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21209.//As a new voice is raised, the chorus for space exploration and use of the space environment resounds with greater force and conviction. We must view the process of intensification of our efforts as one governed by exponential parameters. This is to say that our growth in effectiveness and progress towards our goals will occur much in the same fashion as population growth and average transport speed have through the past. Initially, the simple addition of one or two or three members will appear to have little immediate effect. As the organization continues to gather members and as it uses increasing amounts of resources for political ends, the rate at which both areas of increase enlarge will itself become greater so that each additional member will have increasing importance for the organization due to the explanation is more convoluted than the occurrence of the actual process. What we may expect, in any event, is expansion in our own projects and unification of forces just as we may expect expansion in the nation's space efforts. Remember, we, in our lobbying and educational efforts, do not determine the intrinsic probabilities of space activities. That is to say, space will be exploited and expansion of space programs around the world will occur (see this month's *Voices...* for dramatic confirmation of the latter) whether U.F.O.E.S.P. is successful in its particular project or not. What we seek to do is to increase the pace of these trends. We cannot be complacent, it must be emphasized, about these matters for the present rate of space exploration and exploitation may well mean slow advancement. It might be 80 years before a lunar colony is established. It might be much longer. We commit our resources to this publicity campaign for space because critical decisions about future efforts in the void are this moment being debated in the capitals of the space powers (there are eleven at this time). As the progress we have made is there to be seen, we may confidently say that we at present are having our effect. This statement, in turn allows us to speak with confidence when we declare that we will continue to have our effect in the future. How much effect depends upon each of us, together and separately. Unity! Only if we are united for our expanded space programs will the space policy makers dare to make the radical change in the U.S. commitment to space we require.

"Thanks for your past interest in the UFA. We hope to contact you at a later date; and forward information pertaining to our activities. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to write us. Keep an open mind!" Mathew M. Lowrie-- Public Affairs Officer, United Futurist Association, P.O. Box 17059, San Diego, CA 92117. //One of the most important realizations one can have about support for space is that



space enthusiasts, though isolated, are not alone. The country teems with small, obscure collections of individuals who, from one perspective or another, view space as the proper challenge for humanity. Some see space as a transcendent religious potential; and who can deny them? Jim Irwin, among many others experienced the Divine in the void. Some, such as the group quoted above see space as a grand opportunity to put technology to human benefit; and who can deny them? Our society already benefits from space spin-offs and the space industry has a solid history of achievement in compact engineering, advanced recycling processes for waste, and similar technological lines of development. Some see space as the last chance for human society to resolve its intrinsic difficulties before war and conflict consume all; and who can deny them? Space exploration is one of the few national activities, conceived in competition and prestige, which has lead only to peaceful uses on the large scale, though the potential for militarization is great. Whatever the view, these scattered, disparate groups represent, in microcosm, the vast numbers of men and women who yearn for space, believe in its potential benefit for mankind, and desire strongly to do something for a larger national space experience. We have written to UFA just as we have written in the past. We encouraged them to increase their contact with us and we sent them some recent literature. But, a certain timidity exists in those personally committed to space due to the ridicule heaped upon calls for space exploration in the past. Today still a great part of the populace thinks space efforts to be fantastic exercises if not outright exercises in fantasy. Perhaps if non-official members of U.F.O.E.S.P. were to inquire about this organization (and others as we learn of them), some of that timidity, if it exists, will be neutralized. Unity! It cannot be proclaimed as our aim or necessity too often.

### III. Membership Register

United For Our Expanded Space Programs is an activist organization. The Board of Governors takes every opportunity to stimulate the membership to explore, entertain, and promote their initiative, ideas, and participation in the work we undertake to mobilize the masses for space.

R. Blair Maine 4974 W. Point Loma Blvd. San Diego, CA 92107 Passive	Bevin C. McKinney P.O. Box 333 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Active	Andrew C. Towse 906 Burbank Drive #3 Santa Clara, CA 95051 Active
Otto C. Grimm 2414 Valdez St. Oakland, CA 94612 Active	Anna Belle Bonds 14317 Burbank Van Nuys, CA 91401 Passive	Alfred Bryan Bonds 1920 Francisco #211 Berkeley, CA 94709 Passive
Thomas E. Locke 11628 Gurley Ave. #18 Downey, CA 90241 Passive	Carol Andrews <sup>5</sup> 55 Chumasero Drive #2M San Francisco, CA 94132 Active	Veronica Zehel 2151 San Clemente St. San Diego, CA 92107 Passive
H. Terry Wepsic 338 Glenmont Drive Solana Beach, CA 92075 Passive	Delmar Lee Tompkins, Jr. <sup>3</sup> 737 Highway 60 Socorro, NM 87801 Active	Jes Hinrichs 750 Stratford Drive Encinitas, CA 92024 Passive
Thomas P. Bahr 1282 Lake Drive Road Rural Route #3 Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 Passive	Sean Teets-O'Holleron 2002 Capitol Way Olympia, WA 98501 Passive	Marcella D. Hook 4313 Latona Ave. N.E. Seattle, WA 98105 Passive

Ginette E. Stammitz<sup>4</sup>  
623 1/2 W. 15th St.  
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Active

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55 Chumasero Drive #2M  
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Active

Andrew Montano  
3920 Ingraham Street  
Building 11, Apt. 213  
San Diego, CA 92109  
Passive

William Hinrichs  
750 Stratford Drive  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
Passive

R. Laurraine Tutihasi  
18 Candlewood Drive  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
Passive

Suzanne M. Paulsrude  
2407 Malad Street  
Boise, ID 93705  
Passive

Michele Ann Klein  
2217 Cross Country Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
Active

<sup>1</sup>President, U.F.O.E.S.P.

<sup>2</sup>Treasurer, U.F.O.E.S.P.

<sup>3</sup>Assistant President for Interorganizational Affairs

<sup>4</sup>Assistant President for Light Industry

<sup>5</sup>General Secretary, Antares Chamber

#### IV. Progress Is Our Most Important Product

The Bicentennial Year is upon us and it will be especially political since it is also a Presidential Election Year; and as the first year of the last quarter of the 20th century marks this same revolution about the sun, it is readily apparent that momentous events may occur during those 366 days (note the leap year!). We must seize this intuition and generate our initiative to create projects and experiments which fully range the spectrum of possibility for 1976. In past issues, we have discussed the Fall Media Campaign (FMC) and have pointed out some of its political features. We cannot expect to engage in large-scale activities during the coming year to any great effect for our organization's size will be dwarfed by the issues and events of the national and international arenas (in passing we might note that an analogue of World War III may be declared during the Bicentennial Year). Nonetheless, we will have our effect and the question is the temporal placement of our resources. Until the summer of 1976, we will be constrained by our preparations for Midamericon and the completion of the Congress petitioning. It is hoped that the spring will see the beginnings of next year's major growth as an advertisement has been placed by U.F.O.E.S.P. in the May and June issues of Fantasy and Science Fiction. These issues will appear during the latter parts of March and April; with Midamericon occurring over the Labor Day weekend in September, we are in an excellent position to spur our membership to increase vigorously. If our energies are expended during the first half-year to full development of our membership drive, the second half-year will be marked by enormous political activity on our parts. We cannot overemphasize the opportunity which awaits us: 1976 is a pivotal/critical/watershed year for the United States of America and the entire world. The question, in many guises, is war or peace. Economic war, political war, civil war, etc. and the respective peace counters demand decision of mankind. This is not the time or place to discuss such issues; we seek to mobilize the masses for space and cannot afford to divert our attention to the crises facing the international community today. However, we must make note of these realities and correspondingly seek moments, situations, issues which we can turn to our good use. We can make an enormous impact; we must not dawdle or timidly explore our advantages.

It should be noted in this context that United For Our Expanded Space Programs with the membership it has right now is a self-sufficient organization. That is to say,



if U.F.O.E.S.P. can maintain its present level and division of membership, it has enough money to finance Morale Booster, the concomitant postage to mail the magazine, the bank account service fees, and the post office rental fees for the membership year. In fact, there is a slight surplus. If the organization were to simply double, the membership (with present ratio of 14 passive to 9 active), the organization would then be self-sufficient beyond these basic expenses with the ability to undertake many projects. Figure it out for yourselves. Each passive member receives four issues of MB a year, each active twelve; the number in each category has been given above; everyone knows the dues' amount; and costs such as postal rates, bank fees, etc. can easily be obtained or estimated.

What, then, are the chances for the kind of growth necessary for us to have the ability to undertake large-scale political activity? With discipline, active interest of much of the register, diligent preparation, and the tuned and balanced courage of our conviction, we should be able to double, even triple, or quadruple our membership. We are presented with at least two major opportunities for increased membership, both of which have already been mentioned. Every effort we have made to publicize ourselves to date (Westercon 28, the Aussiecon Programme Book advertisement, two short notices in a San Diego 'cultural' newspaper) has generated some response in a particular way: the larger the audience addressed, and the more personal the proselytization, the greater the response. Westercon 28, which was the largest audience addressed and the most personally addressed one as well, brought us the greatest results: seven members were added to the membership register. The Aussiecon ad has brought two new members so far and it was the second strongest effort we made. When one realizes that Westercon 28 drew perhaps 1,000 people (our potential audience) while Midamericon is expected to draw over seven times as many persons, one cannot help but feel optimistic about our efforts to gather new members in a large fashion at the latter event. When one realizes that the readership of the Aussiecon Programme Book numbered perhaps 2000 while the readership for the two Fantasy and Science Fiction ads will be at least fifty times greater, one cannot but feel that a tremendous opportunity is soon to be realized. We cannot sensibly predict how many individuals will respond to our call. Yet, we should not be overly surprised if these two efforts alone bring 60, 90, 120, 200 new members. To assimilate such an enormous raw influx will make thorough demands on the organization; but successfully to do so means enormous additional resources; resources which we can put to immediate use to launch large-scale projects to bring radical change in national space policy. Every member should think seriously and deeply on ways in which the full potential of these opportunities may be cultivated. There is nothing like the future; let us grasp it!

Our political efforts need not depend upon the success of our membership drive. It might seem that there would be little for us to do beyond the Petitions and similar propaganda. We have mentioned demonstrating for space (peaceably and quietly, much like Jehovah's Witnesses' manner on the street) at political rallies for national candidates. We have not mentioned letter campaigns to news publications or space-policy makers. Nor have we dwelt on the political aspects of the proposed national conference of space-oriented groups. What we seek to create is a people's lobby for space. If the many organizations around the country could agree to form a unified front, the effect would be the same as if all the space enthusiasts belonged to one organization. Once the political leaders learn that we and our ilk are not fringe elements of the society but rather representative of some of the most disciplined, progressive, and educated elements, their attention will be forced upon us. Furthermore, and in ways most importantly, space enthusiasts are not a tiny minority: at least hundreds of thousands exist in this country and it is likely that there are millions who are intimately connected with space enterprises though they may not think they are especially committed to space. To organize this conference will be tedious initially. For the most part, the space organizations which might be interested in such an event are also rather parochial groups. There is a tendency within the mass of space enthusiasts for these organized elements to be fiercely attached to their particular organizations and platforms. Persistence on our part should bring modifications in this attitude. If the plan of the conference can

be demonstrated to be one which does not trespass the autonomy of any group, it may be possible to focus on the potential for united action, the basis for the conference. What would be discussed, who would be invited, and the specific results we hope will flow from the conference are questions that need to be answered after the initial commitment to the idea and the subsequent preparations. Certainly, we would hope that discussions would take place on such subjects as communication networks between groups, the political awareness of space through the general populace, and specific, concerted actions that might be undertaken by a coalition of space groups. What we need to do now is to learn about as many space organizations as we can as quickly as we can so that contact can be made and discussions opened on this matter sooner rather than later. If any one of you learn of a group focused on space [although we seek to unite all space enthusiasts, for this conference we should discourage participation of religious groups], communicate this knowledge to the Board of Governors. Your eyes and ears are everywhere. Tune them in and transmit what is perceived to headquarters. For every opportunity which befalls us by chance we must manufacture three or four. This next year could be our hardest year; think how soon it could be past! The gains to be made demand our strictest attention. If we are to have any hope of changing this nation's attitudes toward space, we must expand our selves.

The letter campaigns possible for the FMC will only be meaningful enterprises with a vastly increased membership: one ten times ours now. Yet, we cannot ignore it at this time for we may soon have a membership of proper size. We must publicize our activities in as many ways as we can so that we can put ourselves in front of as many varied groups as possible. Letters to Congress may not be read; letters to newspapers, magazines and other periodicals certainly cannot be expected to be published. Yet, if enough trials are conducted, the experiment will be successful. As we contact more and more people, as we present our message in more and more forums, memory, throughout the society, of our existence and work grows stronger. Admittedly, this is not glamorous work; but that is not to say that it is without its rewards. In any event, what is needed is a set of individuals willing to compose a series of letters to be used for this sort of propaganda. These letters might be reproduced in turn so that many copies could be sent to many forums or so that many people could send copies of one letter to one place, such as a particular Congressperson. We only outline the possibilities here. But every one which is exploited brings the day nearer when the space experience will have direct meaning for many more thousands than it does now. Even simple (or simple-minded) projects have their effect.

#### V. Voices From The Inside World

When Morale Booster was first conceived, it was thought that one of the most important functions of the publication should be the dissemination to the membership of news of current space events. The format at that time was to quote extensively from the everyday press, with some excerpts from specialized journals. Although the preference would be to continue with such a format because of its immediacy and mundane power, complications arise from the copyright laws. To obtain permission from the original source is not an unseemly task, but it does require much time. Since Morale Booster is chronically behind schedule, this additional time requirement would mean that either the news would be fairly old (since a backlog of items is necessary) or the issues of MB would be even further delayed in their production. Consequently, we resort to paraphrase since this obviates the necessity to seek copyright-quote permission. Another advantage is the ease with which data may be collected and organized here since paraphrasing requires less rigor than exact rendition. The primary disadvantage lies in the lessened detail and consequent increased chance for factual error. In any event, the clippings and notices which the membership has been sending to Headquarters is a vital service and we hope that this change in style of "Voices . . ." will only encourage, rather than dissuade, our faithful readers in this practice.

The past weeks have resounded with much interesting discussion about space. One of the most talked-about ideas has been (and continues to be) the space colonies proposed by Gerard O'Neill of Princeton University's Department of Physics. Jes Hinrichs, Marcella Hook, Andrew Towse and Ginette Stammnitz all sent articles from varied newspapers discussing this matter. What was especially intriguing was the wide range of readership evidenced by the press banners. Not only was this story carried in large circulation newspapers (such as the Los Angeles Times), it was also reported in very local papers (such as the University Herald from Seattle). We might add that a recent issue of Science News (a weekly magazine with a national circulation of over 120,000) reports that NASA and McDonald-Douglas Corp. are undertaking large-scale studies of variations of this colony idea in earth orbit. Clearly, there is widespread human invasion of the space environment in the offing. Another science-fiction story coming true!

The story has an exciting twist, moreover. Just recently, the Chinese orbited two satellites (their fourth and fifth), the former of which they recovered. Now, the world press (Los Angeles Times and Manchester Guardian) report that the Chinese, in a recent commentary on their recent space efforts, openly speak of their future program including men in space. If the Chinese do orbit a human soon, the possibilities are tremendous for expansion of world space programs. The Russians and the Chinese are notoriously competitive vis a vis one another and the successful orbiting of a Chinese citizen would be seen as a direct challenge to the Kremlin. It is quite possible the space race could begin afresh and renewed in these circumstances. Certainly, the example of China, as a developing nation devoting large resources to such a grandiose project, can only serve to spur the space efforts of many other countries. Clearly, space is the place when even the Red Chinese think a man in orbit is a valuable asset!

Although no actual manned missions have occurred since Apollo-Soyuz in the summer of 1975, it is not insignificant that the press has recently carried so many stories concerning manned space flight. Suzanne Paulsruide sent us a news item from a recent issue of Time magazine discussing progress on our nation's space shuttle program (which is conceived as a vital element in the space colonies' and stations' construction). Over 500 missions are planned and people of all sexes, ages, and professions will go into space in the 1980s. There is a hiatus now of human space missions but the near future clearly signals an enormous increase in this type of activity. Every day our world further experiences the space revolution and this experience can only dominate reality more as time goes by. We might note in this context that West Europeans will be included amongst the nationalities in space in the next decade. Though they will not fly their missions with their own boosters but rather will use the Space Shuttle, they will construct the Space Lab which is comparable to Skylab but smaller. Twelve persons have roamed the surface of the Moon; there can be no turning back now.

The most exciting event of the past weeks, however, must be the Venera 9 and 10 missions which soft landed on Venus. Not only was this the first view from the surface of another world (with the exception of the Moon) but the vistas were remarkable. A young planet's topography was seen when an old eroded one was expected. Visibility was far better than anyone imagined with a sharp horizon that did not curve upward as predicted. The Soviets have sent many missions to Venus and each series returns more and more impressive data. When we think that the two Viking missions are safely on their way to Mars (orbiting the planet in June/July 1976), that Pioneer 11 has recently completed successfully a critical midcourse correction on its trip to Saturn, and that NASA is undertaking an effort to obtain funding for a planetary probe to Uranus, we can only be impatiently enthused and expectant about the marvelous and fantastic facts which will burst upon us in the next five years. In fact, with a few missions still functioning today, the data cannot be collected nearly as rapidly on Earth as it is gathered in space. The Los Angeles Times recently reported that an early Pioneer probe (about the sun) is still going strong after 10 years. The evidence is all around us: space is an integral part of our lives and permeates them to a greater and greater extent every day. As this process builds, we must become stronger in our convictions, predictions, and expressions about space. Whether we like it or not; whether society at large likes it or not; we, as space enthusiasts, as spacers, are the wave of the future.

And there is nothing like the future!

----The Board Of Governors, U.F.O.E.S.P.

